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**Erthygl i'r Wasg** **Press Release**

# Codi'r llen ar ddrama S4C – sut lwyddodd Dal y Mellt i ddal dychymyg?

Mae dod â chyfres ddrama i'r sgrin yn dipyn o her, ac mae angen criw enfawr i ddod â phopeth at ei gilydd. A gyda drama ddiweddaraf S4C, **Dal y Mellt**, wedi derbyn canmoliaeth am ei naws ac arddull unigryw, sut felly mae mynd ati i greu rhywbeth mor ffres ac egnïol?

A gan fod y cynhyrchiad eisoes yn bodoli fel nofel boblogaidd, oedd hyn yn creu mwy o her?

Dyma beth sydd gan y cyfarwyddwr, Huw Chiswell, a'r cynhyrchwyr Llŷr Morus ac Iwan 'Iwcs' Roberts o'r cwmni cynhyrchu o Gaerdydd, Vox Pictures, i'w ddweud am y broses.

"Mae 'da'r darllenwr i gyd, fel finnau, eu rhagfarn ynglŷn â phwy yw'r cymeriadau, sut maen nhw'n edrych a sut maen nhw'n ymddwyn" meddai Huw.

"O ni wedi darllen y nofel tro cyn clywed am y gyfres, felly oedd 'da fi'n ddelweddau hefyd eisoes. Gogwydd cyfarwyddo da, yw bod neb yn sylwi arno i raddau helaeth, o ran y dechneg.

"Wedi dweud hynny mae rhywun eisiau adrodd y stori yn ei ffordd unigryw ei hun. Mae 'na linyn, neu steil o gyfarwyddo yn rhedeg drwy'r gyfres. Byddwn ni'n gyndyn o alw nhw'n *gimmicks*, ond mae 'na *quirks* digon unigryw.

"Ambell i nodwedd o'r *shoot*, oedd *topshots*. Mae'r gyfres yn seiliedig ar gynllun, felly mae'r *shots* uchel yn rhyw fath o arwyddbost i roi'r teimlad fod rhywun yn gwylio.

"A gobeithio fod hi'n llifo, yn esmwyth ar y llygaid, ac yn dweud y stori a chyflwyno'r cymeriadau gwych 'ma yn y ffordd orau posib. Dyna pam mae cyfarwyddwr yno, i ddangos y cymeriadau yn eu holl ysblander, ac adrodd stori."

A gyda chefndir cerddorol Huw ac Iwcs, nid yw'n syndod fod y sgôr yn serennu.

"Sain yw hanner y darlun" meddai Huw. "Mae'r gerddoriaeth yn rhan annatod o'r tirlun sain yno ac mae'r cyfansoddwr o Gaerdydd, Siôn Trefor, wedi gwneud gwaith arbennig. Mae e wedi ymateb i'r gyfres trwy ddod a synau diddorol a bîts cynnil sy'n gweddu'n berffaith i bob golygfa."

Gan fod **Dal y Mellt** ar gael fel bocs set ar S4C Clic a BBC iPlayer, mae nifer eisoes wedi gwylio'r gyfres gyfan, gydag eraill yn mwynhau fesul pennod am 9.00 ar nos Sul.

Ond yn ôl y cynhyrchydd, Llŷr Morus, roedd un digwyddiad wedi bygwth popeth.

Meddai Llŷr: "Mae'r stori yn un uchelgeisiol - criw o gymeriadau annhebygol yn dod at ei gilydd i gynnal heist ar y fferi sy'n croesi o Gaergybi i Ddulyn.

"Ar ôl cyfnod o ffilmio yng Nghaerdydd, dyma ni'n gwneud ein ffordd i'r gogledd i saethu golygfeydd allweddol yn fferm Bwlch y Gloch, â'r fferi.

"Ergyd enbyd felly oedd cyrraedd, a darganfod fod y cwmni fferi wedi gorfod gwrthod pob caniatâd i ffilmio oherwydd y rhyfel yn y Wcráin a chyfyngiadau Covid newydd.

"A ninnau ddim ond wyth diwrnod o orffen y *shoot*, roedd popeth yn y fantol. Diolch byth fod ein rheolwr lleoliadau wedi ymateb yn gyflym a chreadigol a llwyddo trefnu i wneud y golygfeydd allanol ar long ymchwil Prifysgol Bangor, a bod clwb hwylio Pwllheli  wedi caniatáu i ni ail-greu bar a chasino yno, gafodd ei greu yn anhygoel gan y Cynllunydd a'r tîm celf."

Felly, roedd modd parhau a chafodd Iwcs, awdur y llyfr, y fraint o weld ei waith yn dod yn fyw a chael bod yn rhan o'r broses honno hefyd.

Meddai Iwcs, oedd hefyd yn gynhyrchydd ar y gyfres: "Roedd o'n anodd ar adegau, handio 'fy mhlentyn i' drosodd a gweld pethau'n cael ei newid. Ond o ni'n ffodus iawn i gael gweithio hefo Llŷr a Huw achos maen nhw'n dallt fy angerdd i a fy ngweledigaeth i. Mae 'na stamp a steil i'r sgwennu ac mae 'na lais yna hefyd sy'n meddwl ein bod wedi cadw'n dryw iawn i'r nofel".

Os nad ydych wedi gweld **Dal y Mellt** eto, gwyliwch nos Sul am 9.00 neu edrych am y bocs set ar S4C Clic neu BBC iPlayer.

**Dal y Mellt**

- **Bocs Set ar S4C Clic a BBC iPlayer**
- **Ar y teledu nos Sul 23 Hydref, 9.00**

**Isdeitlau Saesneg**
**Ar S4C Clic, BBC iPlayer a llwyfannau eraill**
**Cynhyrchiad Vox Pictures ar gyfer S4C**

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# Behind the scenes of new S4C drama, Dal y Mellt

Bringing a drama series to life is quite a challenge, one that calls for a vast crew to bring it all together. And with S4C's latest drama, **Dal y Mellt**, having received praise for its unique style and feel, what exactly does creating something so fresh and energetic involve?

Especially considering the production is an adaptation of a popular novel - does this pose even more of a challenge?

This is what director Huw Chiswell, and producers Iwan 'Iwcs' Roberts and Llŷr Morus from Cardiff based Vox Pictures had to say about the process.

"Those who have read the book, like me, will have their prejudices about who the characters are, how they look and how they behave," said Huw. "I had read the novel long before I knew anything about the TV series, so I myself had these images formed in my mind.

"An indicator of good directing is that no one notices it to a large extent, in terms of technique.

"Having said that, you want to tell the story in your own unique way. There is a thread, or style of directing that runs through the series. I would be reluctant to call them gimmicks, more like unique quirks.

"For example, one notable feature of the shoot is topshots. The series is based around a cunning plan, so the high shots are a signpost to give the feeling that someone is watching.

"And I hope it flows, is easy on the eyes, tells the story and presents these wonderful characters in the best possible way. That's why a director is there, to show the characters in all their splendour, and tell a story."

And with Huw and Iwcs both having musical backgrounds, it's no surprise the score plays a starring role.

"Sound makes up half of the picture," said Huw. "Music is an integral part of the landscape and Cardiff based composer, Siôn Trefor, has done an amazing job. He has responded so well to the series by bringing in interesting sounds and subtle beats that correlate perfectly to each scene".

As **Dal y Mellt** is available as a box set on S4C Clic and BBC iPlayer, many have already watched the whole series, with others enjoying each episode at 9.00 on Sunday evenings.

But according to producer Llŷr Morus, one incident threatened the entire production.

Llŷr said: "The story is quite ambitious - a group of unlikely characters come together to carry out a heist on the ferry that crosses from Holyhead to Dublin.

"After a period of filming in Cardiff, the cast and crew made our way north to shoot key scenes at the Bwlch y Gloch farmhouse and the ferry.

"It was a terrible blow to arrive and discover the ferry company had to refuse all filming permissions with immediate effect due to the war in Ukraine and new Covid restrictions.

"As we were only eight days away from finishing the shoot, everything was at stake. Thank goodness our location manager was able to think creatively and arranged to do the exterior scenes on a Bangor University research vessel. He also persuaded Pwllheli sailing club to allow us to recreate a bar and casino in there that was fantastically transformed by our Designer and the art department."

It was therefore possible to continue and Iwcs, the author of the book, had the privilege of seeing his work come to life as well as being part of that process.

Iwcs, who is also a producer on the series, said: "It was difficult at times, handing over 'my baby' and seeing it being changed. But I was so lucky to work with Llŷr and Huw because they share my passion and my vision. There is a stamp and style to the writing and there is also a voice. This means we have remained true to the novel".

If you haven't seen **Dal y Mellt** yet, watch Sunday night at 9.00 or stream the box set on S4C Clic or BBC iPlayer.

**Dal y Mellt**

- **Box Set on S4C Clic and BBC iPlayer**
- **On S4C Sunday 23 October, 9.00pm**

**English subtitles available**
**On S4C Clic, BBC iPlayer and other platforms**
**A Vox Pictures production for S4C**